DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

December 23, 1982

Chairman, NIH AIDS Working Group

Summary Minutes of AIDS Meeting, December 20, 1982

NIH AIDS Working Group

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. Those present were:

Dr. Robert S. Gordon, Jr. (Chairman)

Dr. Amoz Chernoff, NHLBI

Dr. Genrose Copley, NCI

Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID

Dr. John Hooks, NIDR

Dr. David Madden, NINCDS

Dr. Henry Masur, CC

Dr. Robert Nussenblatt, NEI

Dr. Kenneth Sell, NIAID (Co-chairman)
Dr. Stephen Sherwin (for Dr. Bruce Chabner), NCI
Dr. N. Raphael Shulman, NIADDK

Dr. Michael Luster of NIEHS was connected through the speaker telephone.

The first item discussed was the recent announcement from CDC that more cases of apparent AIDS among hemophiliacs had been reported, along with three presumed to have been transmitted through transfusions of whole blood or blood cells. These reports strongly suggest that a biologic agent, probably a virus, initiates the process of immunosuppression. As AIDS appears to have a long incubation period, and cannot be detected by any simple test, there is no obvious way to eliminate the danger of blood-borne transmission. Various suggestions for reducing the risk were brought up and discussed, but none seemed both acceptable and effective.

The Assistant Secretary for Health has asked for a second inter-agency conference to update recommendations for measures to be taken to protect the nation's blood supply. "As"a preliminary, an open meeting is to be held at CDC in Atlanta, January 4, at which representatives of interested groups and the public may both be heard and learn of recent developments. NIH has been asked to participate, and it was agreed that Drs. Gordon, Sell, and Chernoff would go. The invitation is open to any other scientist who wishes to make the trip.

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Other topics that were addressed in comments by various members included:

- A suggestion that Drs. Donohue and/or Aronson from FDA/BOB be included in future meetings of this group.
- 2) Study of the epidemiology of AIDS among Haitians might provide other useful clues to the mode of transmission, and possibly the nature of the virus. Such studies might be done in Haiti, if the government were cooperative, or among Haitians in the United States.
- 3) Attempts to induce AIDS in primates by injection of blood from affected patients are obviously necessary, and are underway. Dr. Sell stated that at least one chimpanzee will be used, but, as the disease is likely to be fatal, one is reluctant to use such a rare animal.
- 4) A bill has been introduced in Congress to earmark \$10 million for AIDS, but no one present knew of its current status. (The bill was subsequently obtained from the Division of Legislative Analysis and a copy is attached.)
- 5) The ad hoc study section to review the responses to NCI's RFA had just completed its review the previous week. Dr. Copley remarked that many of the applications had obviously been assembled in haste, and were not of top quality. Funding decisions have not yet been made.
- 6) Dr. Sell recommended that Dr. Gordon send each member of the group a copy of the informational material he has been using to reply to Congressional and public inquiries. Each member should review it, and provide corrections or updated information if needed and available. The material sent to Senator Percy is accordingly attached, the material and estimates prepared for Congressman Roybal was sent to the members on December 14.
- 7) Mention was made of cases of apparent AIDS in babies born to mothers either affected or at high risk. No details were available at the time, but a report in MMMR came out after the meeting and is attached.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by,

Robert S. Gordon, Jr., M.D. Special Assistant to the Director, NIH

Attachments RSG:neg Official file located in OD file



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